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Typed or Printed name of person signing this certificate:

Leslie Ann Kuder

Signed

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:  
Sprinkle, et al.

Serial No.: 10/601,729

Filed: June 23, 2003

For: **NASAL MASK**

Attorney Docket No.: 12873/04605

) Examiner: Unknown  
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) Art Unit: 3761  
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Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

This information disclosure statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Applicants wish to disclose the following information:

**REFERENCES**

- ☒ The Applicants wish to make of record the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- ☒ Listed on the attached PTO form 1449 is information known to persons substantively involved in the preparation of the application identified above. This is not a representation that more pertinent information does not exist.

- ☒ The identification of any information herein is not intended to be, and should not be understood as being, an admission that such information, in fact, constitutes "prior art" within the meaning of applicable law. The "prior art" status of any information is a matter to be resolved during prosecution.

### **CERTIFICATION**

- ☒ Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application prior to the filing of this statement.
- ☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- ☒ This information disclosure statement is being filed prior to the mailing of a first Office Action.

### **DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

- ☐ A check is attached in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as required under 37 § 1.17(p).
- ☒ It is not believed that any fee is required relating to the filing of this information disclosure statement. If this is not the case, the patent office is hereby authorized to charge any related fee to **Deposit Account No. 03-0172**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 6, 2004

By: Paul E. Szabo  
Paul E. Szabo, Reg. No. 30,429  
(216) 622-8200



Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**(Use as many sheets as necessary)**

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/601,729
Filing Date	June 23, 2003
First Named Inventor	Sprinkle, et al.
Art Unit	3761
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	12873.04605

Sheet	1	of	1
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## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

**Examiner  
Signature**

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/601,729
				Filing Date	June 23, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Sprinkle, et al.
				Art Unit	3761
				Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet		of	1	Attorney Docket Number	12873.04605

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		PCT Search Report from PCT/US2003/008773; p. 1-9	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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